

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Sub. House Bill 81 as passed by the House, a bill to revise laws governing massage establishments and massage therapy.

I appreciate the important of HB 81 and support its intentions.

I wish I knew how to explain to you what I do as a Feldenkrais practitioner/teacher. If you understood it, it would be so much easier for you to know why I am asking for you to keep the exclusion in HB 81 that will allow movement educators to continue to practice without a massage therapy license.

I am fortunate, that as a physical therapist in the State of Ohio, I have a license that allows me to legally touch the people I serve. If I didn't and the bill goes through without an exclusion, I would be faced with the difficult decision of giving up my life work or practicing illegally.

I have had many different kinds of training, none as helpful as the Feldenkrais Method.

My Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy degree (1971) did not give me what I hoped for, especially to help the infants and young children with cerebral palsy, which is my specialty.

I was trained in the Feldenkrais Method from 1991 through 1994.

With my Feldenkrais Method training(1994-1997), I learned a more gentle touch and many more options for what to do with the children I worked with. Even better is that the results were phenomenally more effective. Also, my work became so much easier on my physical body. If I continued working just as a PT, I would have been much more limited due to the increasing pain that I was experiencing from my arthritis.

I was an administrator for a Feldenkrais Training Program (1997-2001). The students are very well trained and very professional when they graduate.

For myself and for so many of the children I have worked with, I am so grateful for the Feldenkrais Method. Please don't make it harder for others certified in this method to do this wonderful work.

Sincerely,  
Donna S. Lilley